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## EDITORIALS†

### COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

**For Assemblies, Rules of Procedure Are Necessary.**—Whenever, from time to time, in order to attain certain ends, groups of men and women gather together, it is not long before rules of procedure, designed to promote orderly and proper consideration of matters under debate, are adopted. Medical organizations, both in relation to scientific and other business, are no exceptions to this routine. Depending upon the experience of those who draft a method of organization, the rules may or may not be made real factors in the growth and development of a society and its purposes. The by-laws under which a medical society works, therefore, may have an important bearing on its capacity to serve both its members and the communities in which its members practice their profession.

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**Why the By-Laws Are Printed in the Original Articles Department.**—In the original articles of this issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL\* appear the By-Laws of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, adopted, on October 25, 1937 by a vote of 1,750 members in favor, with seventy-five votes against. Some ten years ago, when the revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the California Medical Association was started, in a search then made in medical journals for some by-law models, it was rather surprising to discover that, in spite of the intensive development of medical organizations in the last thirty years, there was almost an absolute paucity, in the literature, of by-law forms. From which fact it would appear that, so far as by-laws of state and county medical societies were concerned, these, like Topsy, "just grewed."

It is, therefore, all the more to the credit of medical societies that, in spite of what might be termed obsolete or inadequate inclusions in their constitutions and by-laws, these organizations should have been able to fulfill their obligations in private and public health practice, in the excellent manner shown by their records; this being explained, perhaps, by the forward outlook of individual members, who have made possible the

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

\* See page 396.